

Inside this Issue

Fireproof your tree	Page 1
Fun Facts	Page 1
Adopt-a-Road	Page 1
Important Dates	Page 1

Recycle and Repurpose Crafts	Page 2
Merry Mulch Your Tree	Page 2
Sustainable Celebration	Page 3



Fireproof Christmas Tree Recipe

Fireproofing your Christmas tree helps your Christmas tree hold up to seven times its normal weight in water. Step One: Strip three inches of bark off the butt of the tree trunk, so the solution can enter the sides as well as the bottom.

Step Two: In a separate container mix the following ingredients:

- 2 quarts of hot water
- 1 pint of Karo syrup
- 2 oz. liquid bleach
- Pinch of Epsom salts
- 1/2 teaspoon of Borax
- 6 quarts of boiling water



It's important to add the mixture to the Christmas tree stand - the hotter the better the initial time. (Breaking the cold sap down so the solution can work towards the top of the tree is important.) The remaining solution can be added cold as needed.

After a few days, cut a twig off to test. See if a match will burn the needles.

<http://www.barnestreefarm.net/fireproof-christmas-tree.php>

Fun Facts and Links

I want to be recycled

<http://wanttoberecycled.org>

Point Park University Sustainability Facts

<http://tinyurl.com/pg8m6lf>

54 Tweetable Eco-Friendly Facts

<http://tinyurl.com/q8qts5b>

Environmental Leader: 6 surprising Facts

<http://tinyurl.com/877mqln>

Adopt-a-Road Summary

So far this year we have collected 167 lbs. of trash and 47 lbs. recycling. Grand total 214 lbs. trash and recycling. Next Adopt-a-Road has been rescheduled for 3/2/16. Next year the goal is to recycle more than we send to the landfill. Speaking of next year, join us at 10:30 AM in the lobby of HCRP Headquarters on the following dates for 2016 Adopt-a-Road Clean-ups.

March 2, 10:30 AM	Bureau of Parks
June 1, 10:30 AM	Bureau of Recreation
Sept. 7, 10:30AM T	Bureau TBD
Dec. 7, 10:30 AM	Bureau TBD

GreenFest

Buy Local,
Eat Local,
Be Local!

Save the Date!

Saturday
April 16, 2016
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Howard Community College

www.HCGreenFest.org

Important Dates

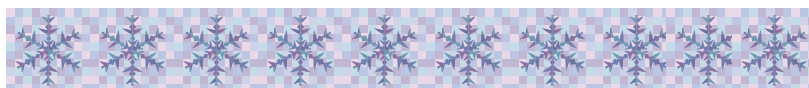
2016 will be the International [Year of Pulses](#)

January 5—[National Bird Day](#)

February 2—[World Wetlands Day](#)

March 21—[World Forestry Day](#)

March 22—[World Water Day](#)



Recycle-Repurpose Craft Ideas

Many products we buy and use are made of plastic. Plastic bottles are still being used and thrown away, which end up in our lakes and oceans and kill wildlife who reside in the water. Please remember to recycle your disposable plastic bottles ... OR... how about getting crafty? Many artists and hobbyists have found numerous ways to repurpose plastic bottles in creative ways. You can do it too.



From striking works of art to reworking the bottles into something functional and helpful to your every day life, there are numerous ways to use your ingenuity and creativity to do your part in keeping these bottles from entering our oceans and waterways.

For 23 Creative Ways To Reuse Old Plastic Bottles visit <http://www.boredpanda.com/plastic-bottle-recycling-ideas/>

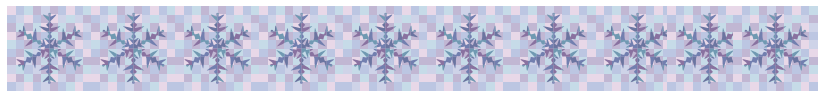


Merry Mulch Disposal / Tree Recycling



Don't Forget to Merry Mulch. Dispose of your fresh tree after the holiday season the merry way: take advantage of a tree recycling program turning trees into mulch! There are tree drop-off sites in several locations around the county and Howard County residents can also place fresh trees out with their curbside yard trim through January 16th. Be sure to remove all tinsel, garland, ornaments, lights, tree stands, etc before recycling. Some artificial trees with metal components may be collected in the scrap metal area at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. Find out more at www.howardcountymd.gov/merrymulch.htm

Other holiday green tips include using newspapers, comics, maps or cloth wrapping as gift wrap, visiting online sites to opt out of catalog delivery and recycling holiday junk mail and packaging.



Sustainable Celebration!

On Wednesday, December 16th, Recreation & Parks Employees will be gathering again to celebrate the holiday season together. Thanks to the creativity of the Holiday Party Planning Committee, sustainability will once again be practiced during this event. We ask that you join in however possible to help reduce the carbon footprint of our annual celebration.

1. **Reusing Decorations**—We will be reusing Department decorations and employees will be sharing their own holiday items therefore limiting the purchase of new materials to help create a festive atmosphere. Local youth enrolled in our Recreation Licensed Childcare program are creating the centerpieces with reused materials.
2. **Central Location Facility**—Headquarters is accessible from all parts of the county and a large number of employees work in or around the main building therefore limiting travel to the event.
3. **Carpooling**—Many employees will be traveling from off-site locations with their co-workers, therefore limiting the number of vehicles being used to get everyone to the event. Buddy the Elf is even forgoing transportation and will be walking all the way from the North Pole.
4. **Bring Your Own**—Employees are encouraged to bring their own, plates, bowls, utensils, FESTIVE cups and cloth napkins to limit the number of disposable items being used at the event. **Bringing your own plate = being at the front of the line when the buffet opens.**
5. **Green Products**—For those who attend without their own dinnerware, the holiday party committee will be providing green dinnerware items for your use.
6. **Resource Recovery**—A Resource Recovery Station will be set up at the event. This will include the collection of recyclable materials as well as a composting collection bin. Look for details at the event as to how we are limiting what goes into the trash cycle and eventually the landfill.
7. **Eat Locally**—Some of the culinary delights provided at the event are made using local ingredients.
8. **Light Recycling**—Employees are invited to bring their old, non-working strands of holiday lights to be recycled. We will collect and transport them to the local participating retailer in order to save you a trip.
9. **Sustainable Contests**—Employees are invited to participate in various contests including our annual **festive cup competition**.
10. **Holiday cheer continues to be a renewable resource.**



Specials thanks again to the Holiday Party Planning Committee for all of their hard work on creating a fun, festive and sustainable event. Enjoy!